

The Honorable Lauren King

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

ABDIQAFAR WAGAFE, *et al.*, on behalf of  
*himself and other similarly situated*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, President of the United  
States, *et al.*,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:17-cv-00094-LK

**STIPULATION FOR ORDER  
STAYING ACTION UNTIL JUNE 9,  
2022; ORDER THEREON**

WHEREAS this action, filed on January 23, 2017, alleges that Defendants have been unlawfully subjecting applications for lawful permanent residence and naturalization submitted to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by members of the Plaintiff-classes to review under the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program (CARRP), which is an agency-wide program and process USCIS applies to cases it believes have national security concerns; and

WHEREAS the Amended Complaint in this action seeks, among other things, to enjoin Defendants from applying CARRP to applications for lawful permanent residence or naturalization submitted by members of the Plaintiff classes; and

STIPULATION FOR ORDER STAYING ACTION UNTIL JUNE 9, 2022;  
ORDER THREON - 1  
(Case No. C17-00094LK)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CIVIL DIVISION, OFFICE OF IMMIGRATION LITIGATION  
Ben Franklin Station, P.O. Box 878  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
(202) 616-4900

1 WHEREAS the parties have filed cross-motions for summary judgment on Plaintiffs' claims;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS those motions, among others, have been pending before the Court since  
4 July 2021; and

5 WHEREAS on or about November 10, 2021, USCIS commenced an agency-wide internal  
6 review of its policies and procedures relative to identifying and assessing national security risks  
7 presented in immigration benefit applications, including applications for lawful permanent residence  
8 and naturalization; and

9 WHEREAS the internal USCIS review is expected to be completed on or about May 10,  
10 2022, unless extended by the Director of USCIS; and

11 WHEREAS it is anticipated that, as a result of this review, new or revised relevant policies  
12 will be issued by USCIS leadership; and

13 WHEREAS Defendants anticipate that these new and revised USCIS policies are likely to  
14 have a material impact on some or all of the legal issues presently before the Court for adjudication;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS the parties mutually agree that it will be in the best interest of the Plaintiff  
17 classes and Defendants, and serve the interests of conserving judicial resources, to stay the case until  
18 the internal USCIS review is completed in May 2022;

19 NOW THEREFORE, the parties, through their respective counsel of record do hereby  
20 stipulate and agree that the Court may make and enter the following order:

21 1. This action, and all proceedings therein, shall be stayed until June 9, 2022.  
22 2. Commencing on February 1, 2022, and continuing throughout the time that the stay  
23 remains in place, Defendants will suspend the issuance of denials of class members' relevant  
24 Form I-485 or N-400 applications, except in the following circumstances:

25 *i.* USCIS will not hold the denial of any relevant application if USCIS will issue a  
26 "Notice to Appear" (NTA) to the applicant following denial of the case.

1           ii. USCIS will not hold the denial of any relevant application if that application is at  
2 issue in ongoing litigation (other than the *Wagafe* litigation).

3           3. In consideration of the statistical anomaly that will be created by the suspension of  
4 denials as described in the preceding paragraph, Plaintiffs agree not to use the increase in statistical  
5 delays resulting from this suspension against Defendants in arguments going forward in this lawsuit.

6           4. Within fourteen days after the expiration of the stay, Defendants will provide  
7 Plaintiffs' counsel with a record reflecting the overall number of class member applications in which  
8 the denial of the application was suspended because of this stipulation. Defendants will provide this  
9 list as an "attorney's eyes only" restricted record subject to the restrictions set forth in this Court's  
10 orders pertaining to such information, Dkt. # 183 and # 192.

11           5. Within 90 days of the date of the commencement of the stay, Defendants shall file a  
12 status report with the Court which sets forth the progress that Defendants have made toward  
13 completion of their review process and the prospects as they see them for completing the review  
14 process by May 10, 2022.

15           6. By no later than March 1, 2022, Plaintiffs shall send a settlement demand to  
16 Defendants' counsel. Defendants will consider Plaintiffs' settlement demand in connection with  
17 their policy review. Defendants shall respond to Plaintiffs' settlement demand by no later than  
18 June 10, 2022.

19           7. Defendants will timely supplement their discovery responses following the expiration  
20 of the stay, as appropriate, in accordance with Rule 26(e), Fed.R.Civ.Pro.

21           8. By June 23, 2022, counsel for Plaintiffs and counsel for Defendants shall meet to  
22 (1) discuss the parties' settlement offers; (2) identify the issues, if any, that the parties believe remain  
23 in dispute; and (3) discuss whether an attempt should be made to resolve any such remaining  
24 disputed issues either through a continuation of informal settlement negotiations or by entering into  
25 mediation pursuant to LCR 39.1 of the Local Rules of this Court according to a procedure that they  
26 have mutually agreed upon.

9. By July 8, 2022, the parties will submit a joint status report identifying any issues remaining in dispute and proposing a joint case schedule to resolve any such issue or issues. If the parties cannot agree on a proposed case schedule for the resolution of any remaining issues in dispute, they may separately set forth their own proposed case schedules for consideration by the Court.

10. ~~As an exception to the stay, and upon the Court's approval of a pending joint-stipulation allowing for the public filing of redacted versions of summary judgment briefs that the parties previously submitted as Highly Sensitive Documents (HSDs), the parties shall be permitted to move forward and file redacted versions of those briefs.~~

11. ~~An additional exception to the stay shall be the parties' compliance with the Court's order dated January 31, 2022 (Dkt. # 587), and the Court's resolution of the underlying sealing and highly sensitive document motions.~~

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1 **SO STIPULATED.**

2 Dated: February 11, 2022

3 BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
4 Acting Assistant Attorney General  
5 Civil Division  
6 U.S. Department of Justice

W. MANNING EVANS  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Office of Immigration Litigation

6 AUGUST FLENTJE  
7 Special Counsel  
8 Civil Division

LEON B. TARANTO  
Trial Attorney  
Torts Branch

8 ETHAN B. KANTER  
9 Chief, National Security Unit  
10 Office of Immigration Litigation  
11 Civil Division

LINDSAY M. MURPHY  
Senior Counsel for National Security  
Office of Immigration Litigation

11 NICHOLAS W. BROWN  
12 United States Attorney

BRENDAN T. MOORE  
Trial Attorney  
Office of Immigration Litigation

13 BRIAN C. KIPNIS  
14 Assistant United States Attorney  
15 Western District of Washington

/s/ Victoria M. Braga  
VICTORIA M. BRAGA  
Trial Attorney  
Office of Immigration Litigation

15 ANNE DONOHUE  
16 Counsel for National Security  
17 Office of Immigration Litigation

JESSE L. BUSEN  
Counsel for National Security  
Office of Immigration Litigation

18 *Counsel for Defendants*  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**SO STIPULATED.**

DATED: February 11, 2022

s/ Jennifer Pasquarella  
Jennifer Pasquarella (admitted pro hac vice)  
**ACLU Foundation of Southern California**  
1313 W. 8th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Telephone: (213) 977-5236  
jpasquarella@aclusocal.org

s/ Harry H. Schneider, Jr.  
s/ Nicholas P. Gellert  
s/ David A. Perez  
s/ Heath L. Hyatt  
s/ Paige L. Whidbee  
Harry H. Schneider, Jr. #9404  
Nicholas P. Gellert #18041  
David A. Perez #43959  
Heath L. Hyatt #54141  
Paige L. Whidbee #55072  
**Perkins Coie LLP**  
1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900  
Seattle, WA 98101-3099  
Telephone: 206.359.8000  
HSchneider@perkinscoie.com  
NGellert@perkinscoie.com  
DPerez@perkinscoie.com  
HHyatt@perkinscoie.com  
PWhidbee@perkinscoie.com

s/ Matt Adams  
Matt Adams #28287  
**Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**  
615 Second Ave., Ste. 400  
Seattle, WA 98122  
Telephone: (206) 957-8611  
matt@nwirp.org

s/ Kristin Macleod-Ball  
Kristin Macleod-Ball (admitted pro hac vice)  
**American Immigration Council**  
1318 Beacon Street, Suite 18  
Brookline, MA 02446  
Telephone: (857) 305-3600  
kmacleod-ball@immcouncil.org

s/ Stacy Tolchin  
Stacy Tolchin (admitted pro hac vice)  
**Law Offices of Stacy Tolchin**  
634 S. Spring St. Suite 500A  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Telephone: (213) 622-7450  
Stacy@tolchinimmigration.com

s/ John Midgley  
s/ Yvonne Chin  
John Midgley #6511  
Yvonne Chin, #50389  
**ACLU of Washington**  
P.O. Box 2728  
Seattle, WA 98111  
Telephone: (206) 624-2184  
jmidgley@aclu-wa.org  
ychin@aclu-wa.org

s/ Dror Ladin  
s/ Sarah Taitz  
s/ Lee Gelernt  
s/ Hina Shamsi  
Dror Ladin (admitted pro hac vice)  
Sarah Taitz (admitted pro hac vice)  
Lee Gelernt (admitted pro hac vice)  
Hina Shamsi (admitted pro hac vice)  
**American Civil Liberties Union Foundation**  
125 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004  
Telephone: (212) 549-2616  
lgelernt@aclu.org  
[dladin@aclu.org](mailto:dladin@aclu.org)  
[staitz@aclu.org](mailto:staitz@aclu.org)  
[hshamsi@aclu.org](mailto:hshamsi@aclu.org)

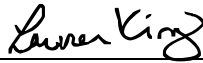
s/ Sameer Ahmed  
Sameer Ahmed (admitted pro hac vice)  
**Harvard Immigration and Refugee  
Clinical Program**  
Harvard Law School  
6 Everett Street; Suite 3105  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Telephone: (617) 495-0638  
[sahmed@law.harvard.edu](mailto:sahmed@law.harvard.edu)

*Counsel for Plaintiffs*

**ORDER**

In light of the parties' stipulated stay and the terms set forth above, the Court STRIKES the March 29, 2022 joint statement deadline. The Court will set a new joint statement deadline, if necessary, once the parties submit their updated Joint Status Report on or before July 8, 2022. Whether and to what extent the parties may file redacted summary judgment briefs turns on the Court's resolution of their "joint statement concisely consolidating their positions on any materials for sealing." Dkt. No. 587 at 6. The Court accordingly GRANTS the parties' stipulation as modified and DENIES as moot the parties' Stipulation for Extension of Time to Respond to Court Order. IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 22 day of February, 2022



LAUREN KING  
United States District Judge

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 11, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Victoria M. Braga  
VICTORIA M. BRAGA  
Trial Attorney  
Office of Immigration Litigation  
Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 878, Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044  
Tel.: (202) 616-5573  
[Victoria.M.Braga@usdoj.gov](mailto:Victoria.M.Braga@usdoj.gov)